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## **D.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LAUNCHES NEW BIOTERRORISM WEBSITE**

(Washington, D.C.) The D.C. Department of Health recently launched a new website to help District residents and local health care providers identify and respond to bioterrorism incidents. The website is part of the Department of Health's new bioterrorism campaign to insure that the District's 500,000 plus residents and health care providers are alert to possible dangers.

The website, <http://bioterrorism.dc.gov>, is based on information developed by the Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other organizations. It includes a listing of various bio-agents, bioterrorism frequently asked questions, recent DOH news releases and alerts, and other valuable information that might help doctors, laboratories and emergency rooms recognize illnesses caused by germ or chemical weapons.

"The website is a major part of our comprehensive plan to ensure our residents have access to accurate and timely information," said Mr. James A. Buford, Director, Department of Health. "The District of Columbia under the Mayor's leadership is on the cutting edge of leading the war against terrorism. The Department of Health is continuing a strong history of responding effectively to public health emergencies."

In addition to the new bioterrorism website, the Department of Health will continue to disseminate information about bioterrorism to health providers and District residents in other ways. In the next few weeks we will be visiting various hospitals, local government agencies, and community organizations throughout the city to conduct bioterrorism briefings with initial emphasis on smallpox.

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